

County to participate in first Adoption Day

MIO—Oscoda County is one of more than 30 Michigan counties participating in the first-ever Michigan Adoption Day set for Tuesday, Nov. 25.

The announcement came Nov. 19 from Oscoda County Probate Judge Kathryn J. Root, Rick Marshall, Family Independence Agency adoption specialist and Judy Olsen, juvenile officer for 23rd Circuit Family Division for Oscoda County.

Oscoda County Probate Court, 23rd Circuit Family Division for Oscoda County and the local Family Independence Agency office will sponsor an Adoption Open House in the lobby of the Courthouse Annex from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25. Information and resources on adoption will be available for the public.

The statewide event, which will feature adoptions of about 200 children in Michigan, is sponsored jointly by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Family Independence Agency.

"We're very excited about this event," said Judge Root. "In most cases, people are not happy to come to court."

"Adoptions are the exception; a joyous occasion for families, the court, Family Independence Agency office and local agencies, and especially the children."

The theme for Michigan Adoption Day, which will take place two days before Thanksgiving, is "Giving thanks

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— Rick Marshall,
FIA adoption specialist

for families."

"Adoption is the only answer for children who can never return home because of abuse and neglect," Rick Marshall said. "There are children in our community available for adoption waiting for loving families to give them a permanent, safe home."

There are about 19,500 children in Michigan's foster care program and about 4,500 permanent state wards in Michigan with a goal of adoption. Most have an adoptive home identified but about 400 do not. The Family Independence Agency, which in Fiscal Year 2002 helped finalize 2,833 adoptions in Michigan, is seeking adoptive home for these families.

More information about Michigan Adoption Day is available on the One Court of Justice Web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm> and on the FIA Web site at www.michigan.gov/fia.